

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05713 141122Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 OMB-01 /067 W
 ----- 123427 /17

R 141050Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6415
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SF, PINT
SUBJECT: UP CAPE LEADER RESIGNS POST

REF: PRETORIA 4974

1. DECEMBER 11 NEWS ACCOUNTS REPORT THAT MYBURGH STREICHER, UNITED PARTY MP AND PARTY'S CAPE PROVINCE LEADER, RESIGNED HIS LEADERSHIP POSITION BECUASE OF RESERVATIONS ON COURSE OF ATTEMPT TO FORM UNITED OPPOSITION (REFTEL). HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE WOULD REMAIN A UP MEMBER AND MP BUT THAT HE COULD NOT BE PART OF COALITION ATTEMPT WITH THE PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY. "THEY (PRP) ARE EXPECTING THE WHITES TO SUBMIT TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN THE COUNTRY....AND UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES I AM NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF MY PARTY....IN THIS PROVINCE."

2. LATER PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS FROM WITHIN UP HAD ACCUSED STREICHER OF BEING "PREMATURE" IN HIS RESIGNATION. STEERING COMMITTEE UNDER JUDGEMARAIS HAD YET TO REPORT, THEY SAID, AND HE SHOULD HAVE AWAITED ITS PROPOSALS. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THAT
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LIBERAL ELEMENTS HAVE WELCOMED THE DEFECTION AS ELIMINATION

OF ONE MORE STUMBLING BLOCK TO FORMATION OF THE UNITED
OPPOSITION.

3. COMMENT: ONE PRESS ACCOUNT STATES STREICHER'S RESIGNATION
"BRINGS TO THE FORE THE TREMENDOUS PRESSURES AND
DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE BEEN RAGING IN THE UP" OVER ITS
POSITION ON UNITED OPPOSITION. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT OVER-
STATED, IT IS ACCURATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN UNEASE IN
RIGHT WING OF UP OVER DEALING WITH PRP ON THIS MOVE FOR UNITED
OPPOSITION. THEY SEE PRP'S INSISTENCE ON POWER SHARING AS
INCONSISTENT WITH UP'S BASIC PRECEPTS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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